

Highlighter



District Leaders



Michael D
Driebe
District
Governor



Gilda Riazi
Moshir
District Gov-
Elect



Dennis M.
Franklin
District Gov-
Nominee



Michael L.
Soden
IPDG

Events

December 1st
[2024-25 Dan Stover Music Contest Intent Deadline Dec 1](#)

December 2nd
[A Demo Session of Chinese Arm Swing Exercise \(Ping Shuai Gong\)](#)

December 3rd
[LV Southwest Happy Feet](#)

December 4th
[A Demo Session of Chinese Arm Swing Exercise \(Ping Shuai Gong\)](#)

December 5th
[LV Summerlin Santa Clothes](#)

December 5th
[Santa Clothes - Joint LV Clubs](#)

December 5th
[Claremont Sunrise Rotary Holiday Pot-Luck](#)

December 6th
[Teen Leadership Camp](#)

December 6th
[Las Vegas West-Hummel Elementary School Food Pantry](#)

December 6th

DECEMBER 2024

In this edition:

Message from the District Governor

District events and deadlines

Invitation

Thanksgiving projects

Club Projects

Happy Holiday Projects

Global Scholar Update

Message from the District Governor

Dear Rotarians,



As we enter this season of giving and reflection, I am reminded of the profound impact we make together through Rotary. December is a time to celebrate the connections we've built, the lives we've touched, and the goals we've accomplished so far this Rotary year.

This month, I encourage you to focus on spreading joy and hope within your communities. Whether it's supporting local families, volunteering at food banks, or organizing holiday events, let's embody the spirit of "Service Above Self."

Our district has much to be proud of—from impactful service projects to meaningful collaborations. As we continue to grow membership and diversify our outreach, I urge each of you to invite others to experience the camaraderie and purpose that Rotary offers. Together, we can inspire new leaders and expand our capacity to serve.

Looking ahead, remember to mark your calendars for our upcoming events in 2025, including the District Conference and training sessions that empower us to lead and innovate. Stay tuned for more details in the Highlighter, the district website and in your club's newsletter.

Thank you for your dedication and passion. Let's close out this year with gratitude in our hearts and renewed energy to transform lives. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Mike
District Governor
Rotary District 5300

DISTRICT EVENTS AND DEADLINES

Cleft Lip Project Committee Needs You! Deadline Dec. 2!!

By Drexel Smith, Chair of the Cleft Lip Project

Planning continues as the sponsor of the next Cleft Lip Project - a Mission to Uganda departing June 7, returning June 22, 2025. The team will travel together from and return to San Francisco. The Committee needs you.

[LV Southwest - Interact Club](#)

December 6th

[Altadena -](#)

[Christmas Tree](#)

[Lane Lighting -](#)

[Rotary Booth](#)

December 7th

[Covina - Endless Smiles](#)

December 7th

[Take Down Flags](#)

[on Lake Avenue -](#)

[Altadena](#)

December 7th

[Summerlin -](#)

[Salvation Army](#)

[Bell Ringing](#)

December 7th

[Azusa - Festival of](#)

[Lights](#)

December 7th

[Green Valley](#)

[Annual](#)

[Christmas/Holiday](#)

[Party](#)

December 8th

[Monrovia Rotary](#)

[Club Santa clothes](#)

December 8th

[Upland - Target](#)

[Shopping for Kids](#)

December 8th

[Las Vegas](#)

[Summerlin](#)

[Holiday Party -](#)

[December 8](#)

December 9th

[A Demo Session of](#)

[Chinese Arm](#)

[Swing Exercise](#)

[\(Ping Shuai Gong\)](#)

December 9th

[Green Valley -](#)

[Annual Soccer](#)

[Tournament](#)

December 10th

[A Demo Session of](#)

[Chinese Arm](#)

[Swing Exercise](#)

[\(Ping Shuai Gong\)](#)

December 10th

[Boulder City -](#)

[Christmas Party](#)

December 11th

[Green Valley -](#)

[Houlihan's](#)

[Christmas For](#)

[Kids!!](#)

December 11th

[A Demo Session of](#)

[Chinese Arm](#)

[Swing Exercise](#)

[\(Ping Shuai Gong\)](#)

December 11th

[LV Southwest -](#)

[Interact Club](#)

December 11th

[Pasadena Impact](#)

[Club Happy Hour](#)

December 12th

[LV Southwest -](#)

[Holiday Party](#)

December 12th

[Azusa - Shop with](#)

[a Cop](#)

December 12th

1. We offer presenters to clubs. These speakers have all had personal experience supporting a mission and make a great program for your club. Robin Smith is coordinating these speakers, please reach out to her directly to schedule.
2. Donations/Sponsorships. Yes, the Committee welcomes any and all donations from individuals and clubs. Remember, this donation from a club qualifies as a 'International project'.
3. Volunteers - A Mission Team includes non-medical volunteers supporting the team members of surgeons, nurses and therapists. Each non-medical volunteer has a specific job assignment:
 - Medical Record Keeper
 - Sterilizer
 - Mission Historian (Documentarian/photographer)
 - Quartermaster
 - PACU assistant
 - Recreation Therapist
 - Ward Coordinator
 - Patient Transporter

The impact of providing surgical assistance repairing cleft lip, palate and burn-scar repair is life changing for each patient and for Team members as well.

If you are interested in being considered as a non-medical volunteer please let us know.

If you would like to schedule a guest speaker on this important work please let us know.

If you would like to make a donation, please do not hesitate.

For more information please contact a Committee Member:

Drexel L. Smith, Chair, dls@drexelcg.com 951-202-2012

Robin Smith, Co-chair, Robin@smithteamlasvegas.com 702-460-5080

John Chase, Jchase5300@gmail.com 702-497-3328

Marilyn Diaz, diazwalker@icloud.com 626.383.1328

Bonita Ramos, bramos@abilityfirst.org 909-561-5150

Tony Scheppmann, tncscheppmann@gmail.com 702-460-5723

To indicate your interest, please complete the [form linked here](#) asap and return it to Drexel Smith at the email above.

2025 Rotary Friendship Exchange and Immunization Day

By Rampur Viswanath

Still undecided about going to India for the Rotary Friendship Exchange?? There's now an opportunity to participate in a Rotary Immunization Day while you're there. Come to India with the Rotary Friendship Exchange and help end polio! For more information contact PDG Rampur Viswanath at 509-546-1534.

2025 ROTARY FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE



JOIN US ON THE
TRIP OF A
LIFETIME TO INDIA!

EMAIL PDG DR. RAMPUR VISWANATH AT

R.VISWANATH@YAHOO.COM

OR CALL 509-546-1534
FOR MORE DETAILS

District 3020 invites you to Vizag to experience India's legendary hospitality from **January 20th to February 1st!** Enjoy her culture, cuisine, history, and art. Be hosted in the homes of fellow Rotarians, and help grow "peace through understanding." You can even extend your visit to see Agra, the Taj Mahal, Jaipur and New Delhi.

Pre-PETS Gathering

By *DGE Gilda Moshir*

Congratulations to the President-Elects who attended the Pre-PETS training on October 5, 2024 in Nevada. I'm looking forward to PETS in February and to a great year in 2025-2026.

Ontario-Montclair Students of the Month

December 12th
**Henderson After
Hours Service
Project**

December 13th
**Lancaster Sunrise
School District
Food Distribution**

December 13th
**Altadena - Toy
Give-Away at
Farnsworth Park**

December 14th
**Altadena Door of
Hope Carnival**

December 14th
**LSR Club
Christmas Party**

December 17th
**Rose Bowl Tour -
Fellowship Event**

December 18th
**LV Summerlin -
Just One Project -
Grocery Packing &
Stocking**

December 18th
**LV After Hours -
Lunt Winter Feast**

December 18th
**LV After Hours -
Agassi Birthday
Hour**

December 18th
**Membership
Committee On
Line Zoom**

Meeting

December 18th
**Growing Club
Membership**

December 21st
**Las Vegas
Summerlin Just
One Pop Up
Market**

December 21st
**Boulder City -
Friends of the
Desert Service
Project**

December 21st
**LV Southwest -
Holiday Party -
Kids**

December 22nd
**Wrapping Party
for the Kids of
Child Haven.**

December 25th
**AG On Line Zoom
Meeting**

December 28th
**Pasadena - Eaton
Canyon Trail
Cleanup**

December 29th
**2024-25 Hensel
Ethics Essay
Contest-Club
Intent Form
Deadline**

December 30th
**Rose Parade Float
Com. Holiday
Party &
Celebration**

December 31st
**RRPFC: The New
Year's Eve Dinner**

December 31st
**2024-25 4-Way
Test Speech
Contest Intent**

January 9th
**Ontario-Montclair
Students of the
Month**

January 10th
**Lancaster Sunrise
School District
Food Distribution**

January 10th
**LV After Hours -
Holiday Party**

January 14th
**DG Official Visit -
East Los Angeles**



The Best Dam Training We've Got

By *DGN Dennis Franklin*

Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is engaging, informative and inspiring. Don't miss this opportunity to see first-hand what Rotary is all about.

We'll be holding RLI Parts 1 and 2 on Saturday, February 1, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in Boulder City, Nevada. Afterwards, participants have the option to join us for some social time where we learn about the fascinating history of, you guessed it . . . the Hoover Dam. It's all included in your \$45 registration fee.

To register go on dacdb or click the link below: <https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77791529&NoCaptcha>



Rose Parade Opportunities

By *Dan Ouweleen, ZONE RPIC 2024-27, Rotary Rose Parade Board Member*

The Rose Parade is right around the corner. If you or your Club want to participate in decorating the float or walking the parade route with the float, please look at the Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee Newsletter, [linked here](#), for information.



SAVE THE DATE for the District Awards and Foundation Dinner!

By *Christine Smith*

It's never too early to save the date for our 2025 District Awards Program and Foundation Dinner!
Saturday, June 7.

The evening will feature special guests Ramesh Ferris, polio survivor and renowned inspirational speaker, and Rotary Foundation Trustee, Greg Podd.

Stay tuned for details on tickets and sponsorship opportunities, which will be shared on the District website and in *The Highlighter*.

World Market Center, Las Vegas

- Schedule of Events
- District Awards Presentation: 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
 - Reception: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
 - Dinner: 6:30 PM

We look forward to celebrating with you!

INVITATION

Alhambra & Monterey Park: Ping Shuai Gong Event--You're Invited!

By Ayla Jefferson

You are invited to meet Snow Chang, a Senior Qigong Coach from the US Meimen Culture Center founded by the internationally renowned Qigong Master Lee Feng-San. Cost of attendance, including lunch, is \$20.

You will learn how a simple and easy, mindful arm swinging exercise called Ping Shuai Gong can help improve body, mind and spirit. This is a basic Qigong movement developed by Master Lee Feng-San so that the public can learn the simplified method to practice the exercise for health. It is an ideal group exercise for seniors and non-senior communities. A demo will be given by the coaches, Snow Chang and Trista Huang from the US Meimen Culture Center.

Date and time: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 12pm

Location: [Vino's Back Alley](#), 10 N First Street, Alhambra, CA 91801

*****Register [using this link](#) by Thursday, December 5, 2024!*****

THANKSGIVING PROJECTS

Green Valley Packs Thanksgiving Meals for Needy Families

By Barbara Billitzer

On November 12th, members from the Rotary Club of Green Valley met up at Olive Crest in Las Vegas to assemble Thanksgiving meal packages. Olive Crest's mission is to transform the lives of children in crisis through the healing power of God, family, and community. Today, too many children are being abused and neglected, and many families lack the support, knowledge, or ability to care for their children. Over the last five decades, the nonprofit has transformed the lives of 250,000 children and families by preventing child abuse, equipping and educating children in crisis, and preserving the family. Their faith-based model has been effective in stopping the cycle of abuse and neglect and empowering strong families to become healthy and productive in their communities. On average, 5,000 children and families are served every day. The Rotary Club of Green Valley had a great time assembling the Thanksgiving meals, which included a gift card for a turkey and personal notes for each family.



The LV After Hours Turkey Stole the Show

By Linda Bertuzzi

This Thanksgiving season, our Rotary family had the absolute joy of hosting a fabulous feast at the Agassi Boys and Girls Club! It was an event filled with laughter, full bellies, and so much gratitude—all in the spirit of giving back to the incredible kids in our community. Our commitment to supporting these amazing young people was on full display, and let's be honest—when there's food involved, it's bound to be unforgettable! The kids were all smiles as they enjoyed heaping plates of delicious Thanksgiving classics. Seconds? Of course! Thirds? Absolutely! Even the green beans were a surprising hit (who

knew?). But the true star of the day was none other than our very own Jeremy Bruner, who embraced his inner holiday spirit and became “the turkey”! His enthusiasm brought so much laughter and joy to the kids—and yes, plenty of selfies too! The event reminded us why we do what we do: bringing people together, building stronger connections, and creating memorable moments for the next generation. To everyone who helped make this feast possible, thank you. Together, we’re nourishing not just bodies but also hearts and futures.



Pomona Catholic Interact Thanksgiving Food Drive Honored

By Josh Landis, Pomona Rotary President

Pomona Rotary celebrated the hard work of the Interact Club at Pomona Catholic with a pizza party for its efforts in organizing a Thanksgiving Food Drive. Over the last month, the students collected various food items to be donated to families in need and Rotarians collected peanut butter and protein bars to supplement the students' efforts.

After the pizza party, Rotarians loaded up the cars with the collected food items and delivered them to the local St. Vincent de Paul food pantry.



Record Turnout at 17th Annual Claremont Sunrise Rotary Turkey Trot

By Turkey Trot Chair Gabe Millar and President Devo Anderson

The Claremont Sunrise Rotary Club celebrated another successful Thanksgiving morning tradition with its [17th annual Turkey Trot](#). From humble beginnings with 500 runners, this year's event featured record participation of over 1000 from both individual runners and race teams.

This year's event introduced exciting additions, including commemorative socks and hats alongside the traditional race shirt, as well as a costume contest. The event's success stems from strong community support, with local sponsors helping cover operational costs for both the 5K race and 1k kids' fun run. Coordination with Claremont Colleges, local residents, and public transportation ensured the smooth execution of the route closures.

Early-morning participants and volunteers enjoyed breakfast from Hitch Burger and coffee from Daddy's Best Froyo Truck, with activities running from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. Dedicated volunteers managed everything from registration and bib number pickups, to safety along the morning event route, ensuring a seamless experience for all participants.



The Turkey Trot continues to serve as a vital fundraiser enabling Claremont Sunrise Rotary to support both local and international community initiatives. The club extends its gratitude to all sponsors, volunteers, and participants who contributed to this year's remarkable success.



Runners set off at the 2014 Claremont Turkey Trot 5K. Courier photo/Andrew Alonzo



(1-8) Luna Divilo, 7, Ellie Cervantes, 2, and parents Elizabeth and Gabriel Cervantes watch as Gabriel Cervantes, 8, gets a high five from Turkey Trot mascot Stacey Capaligro early Thursday morning at Claremont Sunrise Rotary's 17th annual Turkey Trot. Courier photo/Andrew Alonzo

RECENT CLUB PROJECTS

Claremont Rotary Volunteers for Hope Partners

By John Howland

Inland Valley Hope Partners brings together faith communities, businesses, individuals, and community groups, to empower people in need by providing food, shelter, and supportive services. The Rotary Club of Claremont has been an active provider of food for the Hope Partners Food Pantry.

Claremont Rotary volunteers recently assisted in renovating an Inland Valley Hope Partners playground for young children (ages 2-5), which is next to Hope Partners' temporary shelter for families. Over two weekends, volunteers helped remove unhealthy rubber mulch, replacing it with new wood mulch. The project also included a new seat for the swing, and a new sandbox. We were assisted by Claremont High School Interactors, and by a group of young people from the LDS church who volunteered to provide community service through the efforts of Rotarian Corina Christiansen.



Covina Valley Funds Mini Grants for Local Teachers

By Samantha Davis

Covina Valley Rotary was honored to fund \$500 mini-grants to local teachers who applied for the opportunity to help improve their classroom in ways that are not funded by the school district. Awarded ideas included:

Designated spaces to help students struggling with regulating their emotions through the use of art, sensory tools, quiet spaces and books.

Rewarding students struggling with math with a "Mathlete" t-shirt after accomplishing set goals, instilling confidence and continued desire to learn.

Helping developmentally delayed adult transition students learn basic life skills by funding a "snack cart" which offers snacks to staff members teaching concepts such as marketing, cash drawer management and monitoring inventory.

Below left are recipients of Covina Rotary Teacher Mini Grants. At right is Rotarian and Covina Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Dr. Elizabeth Eminhizer speaking to Mini Grant award winners.



Glendora Eyeglasses Project in Mexico

By Gary Boyer

On November 9, the Glendora Rotary collaborated with the Rotary Club of La Mision, in Rosarito, Mexico to fit children with eyeglasses for the first time since 2019. They were received almost as royalty by the local club, and we worked very well together. The local club members organized all the children participating, and provided transportation for the District 5300 Rotarians attending, meeting us at the San Diego train station and providing transportation to Rosarito and back.

This continued a 23 year International project of helping children in need to be able to see better. It began in 2001 as the focometer project. A group of Rotarians traveled to Houston Texas to train to measure vision using the new hand-held, electricity free auto-refractor called a focometer. For many years teams of Glendora Rotarians traveled to Tijuana and Rosarito Mexico, partnering along the way with Rotary Clubs in those areas.

With our partners in Mexico including Mary Beth DiCecco, Karen Arter and others, and led by Sheila Gutierrez, volunteers worked with children and their families to evaluate their eyesight. Roger Gutierrez, Alfonso Sanchez, Kathy Clark, Guadalupe Corder and Kathy & Gary Boyer rounded out the team from Glendora.

With the advent of better technology than the focometer, an automated refractor was used. After a relatively short examination, we found that most of the children had good vision. There were some with a medical issue and local Rotarians help those to get the proper medical care. The children came in not being able to see leaves on trees, and left with the gift of better eyesight. Immediate results for nearsighted, farsighted, and astigmatism were gathered, glasses were made, and children went home able to see the leaves!

The Rotary Club of La Mision had the project well underway by the time we arrived. It's always rewarding to start a project and see it grow as others embrace this much needed service. This project did not go unnoticed locally as they were visited by BC Congressional Representative Fidel Mogollon to thank the volunteers and by Manuel Villasenor, a local Community Leader, who was there to observe and was interested in how we could expand the projects into other regions. With the success of this trip, the enthusiasm of the Rotary Club of La Mision and the local need, the plan is to return to annual trips and expand the training to other areas in Mexico.



Monrovia Rotary Park Ribbon Cutting

By Karen Lujan

A ribbon cutting event for the opening of the updated Rotary Park playground in Monrovia was held on Saturday November 16. The Monrovia Club has been working with the City of Monrovia on the design of the updated playground structure for over a year and the City will be adding an infographic to the park on the history of our Rotary Club (at bottom)!

Collaboration was a cornerstone of the Rotary Park Playground Renovation project. Beginning in the summer of 2023, City staff initiated outreach efforts to design the playground, engaging key partners like the Rotary Club of Monrovia and Options for Learning. Additionally, residents were invited to provide input through neighborhood door-to-door canvassing, Community Services Commission Meetings, City Council Study Session, written submissions, and a Community Meeting held at the park where residents prioritized specific playground features. Following the meeting, a committee was formed to review all feedback gathered over the summer. The committee was comprised of City staff, Community Service Commission members, and Rotary representatives. This group worked collaboratively to finalize the playground design, ensuring it aligned with the community's vision.

The Club has had a vested interest in the park since 1969 when the Club and the City of Monrovia partnered to create the park. In addition to serving on the Committee, Rotary members worked with City staff on the logo for the soft surfacing, and provided artwork for a playground panel, which shares the Rotary message, "Be the good you see in the world".

The carefully selected playground elements create a dynamic environment for exploration and creativity, with features designed to accommodate children of all abilities. Quiet zones with play panels, including a talk tube, and custom soft surfacing designs provide spaces for children needing extra time to adapt to play. The Global Motion spinning feature promotes inclusion and cooperation by allowing children to engage at various levels and was picked to incorporate Rotary's colors. Playground components rooted in community input also set the playground apart as a space for cooperative and motor play, with treehouse-themed structures featuring a double slide, wood plank wiggly ladder, fire pole, travel climber, climbing rocks, winding slide, mushroom climbers, and a log balance beam.

CITY OF MONROVIA | ROTARY PARK Celebrating the history of the Rotary Club of Monrovia and its contributions to our community

Rotary Club of Monrovia HISTORY

- 1920 - Organizational meeting for the Rotary Club of Monrovia was held on June 22, 1927 at the then-offices of the Southern Counties Gas Co., 114 E. Lamon Ave. The Rotary Club of Monrovia was chartered on October 24, 1927.
- 1928 - The first President of the Rotary Club of Monrovia was Walter E. Keville, District Manager for the Southern Counties Gas Company.
- 1969 - Two Rotary Club of Monrovia Members have served as District Governors, George Carlson and William "Bill" Ryan.
- 1986 - The Rotary Club of Monrovia has participated in many community services projects, bettering Monrovia for all.
- 1996 - The Rotary Club of Monrovia has participated in several international projects in Mexico and South Africa.
- 2003 - Rotarians across the globe wish to see polio join with us as a disease banished from the face of the earth.
- 2009 - The Rotary Club of Monrovia gives annual scholarships to graduating seniors at Monrovia High School as well as Campen Dale and Mountain Park Alternative School and provides vocational scholarships to those attending the Monrovia Adult School.

ROTARY'S MOTTO IS "SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

PARK HISTORY

- Rotary Park was previously a water reservoir but was renovated and opened as a park on February 1, 1988.
- The Rotary Club of Monrovia partnered with the City to create a park at this location for three reasons:
 1. There was limited space available to build a much-needed neighborhood park.
 2. The price to buy land was expensive and
 3. There was growing need in the neighborhood for a space where community could gather and kids could play safely.
- In 1988, the Rotary Club of Monrovia donated \$4,000 to build the park and contributed over 750 hours of sweat equity into park design and construction.
- At the time, the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended to the City Council that the Park be named Rotary Park to recognize the significant and lasting impact the Rotary Club of Monrovia had made in the community.
- The original play structures included a merry-go-round, four spring riders, a dome climber, a slide and swings.
- In 2024, in partnership with the City, the Rotary Park playground was renovated with enhanced dining features and a nature theme.

MAXIMIZE YOUR VISIT! SCAN OR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONROVIA

Pomona Rotary Students of the Month

By Josh Landis

On Thursday November 21st, Pomona Rotary held its Students of the Month recognition at the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley. Pomona Rotary recognized 11 students from the various high schools in Pomona for their outstanding work and for demonstrating courage through difficult situations. All of the students received a certificate and a \$50 gift card in time for the upcoming holidays. Pomona Rotary has had a great partnership with the Youth and Family Club to host these events and support the students in the community.

As our way of serving others, the Rotarians served a taco dinner to the students, their families, and some of the school staff in attendance.



HAPPY HOLIDAY PROJECTS

Tournament of Roses Royal Court Activities at San Marino Rotary

By Paul Brassard, President, San Marino

San Marino Rotary Club welcomed a touch of Pasadena pageantry as the Tournament of Roses Royal Court made its annual visit to the club. The Royal Court, a cherished tradition of the Rose Parade, consists of seven accomplished young women from nearby high schools who serve as ambassadors of the Rose Bowl Parade and Football Game.

The Royal Court members, dressed in matching denim outfits, shared their experiences and excitement about representing the community in the upcoming festivities. They answered questions about the selection process, their college plans, the training they received and some fun experiences like visiting Disneyland. But as beautiful and poised as they were, they were momentarily upstaged by the arrival of Councilman (and fellow Rotarian) Tony Chou's three-year-old daughter who posed for pictures with the Court.

Prior to visiting the club, the princesses met elementary students from East Los Angeles at the Huntington Library. "Plants and Princesses" is a collaborative hands-on project among San Marino Rotary, East LA Rotary, the Huntington Botanical Garden and The Tournament of Roses. The program includes learning sessions in the Huntington botanical lab, plants discovery in the experimental garden, and the miniature-Rose float building with fresh flowers. Many of the 3rd graders from the two elementary schools in East Los Angeles were visiting The Huntington for the first time. At the conclusion of the educational sessions, the Rotary Presidents for San Marino and East LA) welcomed the students and then introduced the Rose Court princesses to answer questions for 15 minutes. The San Marino Police then escorted the Rose Court to the San Marino Rotary club lunch at the Community Church.



Las Vegas Rotary To Host 29th Annual Santa Clothes Program

By Sarah Thornton

As the season of giving approaches, the Las Vegas Rotary Club is gearing up for its 29th annual Santa Clothes program. Established in 1996, the one-day event provides new clothing and shoes to children in need during the holiday season.

This year's event will take place on Thursday, Dec. 5, at J.C. Penny stores located throughout Southern Nevada. More than 300 volunteers and nearly 400 children are expected to attend. Each child will shop with an adult volunteer for a new pair of socks, shoes, winter coat, pants and shirts.



The program is sponsored by the Southern Nevada area Rotary Clubs. Last year, the event sponsored 385 children from multiple organizations including St. Jude's Ranch for Children, The Salvation Army, Boys and Girls Club of Southern Nevada, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada and the YMCA of Southern Nevada.

This time of year is filled with joy for many, but it can also be a challenging season for some. For nearly three decades, this tradition has brought warmth and happiness to those in need, and the club looks forward to it every year. The Las Vegas Rotary Club mission is to build goodwill for all, and we always look forward to sharing holiday cheer with these deserving and appreciative children."

To make a tax-deductible donation to Santa Clothes, mail a check in any amount to the Las Vegas Rotary Foundation at PO box 15152 Las Vegas, Nevada 89114. For more information, email admin@lasvegasrotary.com. For more information about the Las Vegas Rotary Club, please visit www.lasvegasrotary.com.



Las Vegas Southwest Santa Coats

By Keith Thomas

'Tis the season to be thankful and reflect on the many blessings we have received throughout the year. The Rotary Club of Las Vegas Southwest ("Southwest Rotary") is particularly thankful for the means and ability to extend our hands to help those around us, both locally in Las Vegas and globally. Our commitment to service is fueled by a deep appreciation for our community and the world at large.

This year, we at Southwest Rotary were fortunate to receive two grants from District 5300. These funds will be instrumental in our annual "Santa Coats" program, where we work to ensure that children in need have warm winter coats during the holiday season.

In collaboration with a Title 1 elementary school, we are providing coats to children who may not otherwise have access to them. The coats have already been ordered. Our dedicated Southwest Rotarians will gather to unbox, sort, and prepare the coats for presentation. This collective effort creates a sense of community and compassion, demonstrating to these children that they are

valued and cared for.

The joy on the children's faces as they received their coats last year is a memory that drives us to continue this work. We believe that acts of kindness, no matter how small, can make a significant difference in the lives of others. Through initiatives like "Santa Coats" we embody the spirit of Rotary—service above self, compassion in action, and a commitment to making our community a better place.

Happy holidays from Southwest Rotary!



Rancho Cucamonga Winter Wonderland

By Diane O'Neal



The Rotary Club of Rancho Cucamonga will put on its Winter Wonderland Christmas event Saturday, December 14, 2024. Our Rotary Club will host 170 children, ages infant to high school. Families will arrive at staggered times and will start at the cookies and cocoa station, move to the ornament-making station, then to their first give away table which will be small items for stocking stuffers, then to the LemonAid Foundation table where each family will receive a gingerbread house making kit to take home with them. Then they will get their Winter Wonderland holiday picture taken with Santa, pick up their duffle bags stuffed with items for the family and finally move to the family toys that are wrapped and bagged for our families. Finally, each family will receive a set of stoneware dishes to be used for their Christmas meal. Happy Holidays!

GLOBAL SCHOLAR UPDATE

Rotary Global Scholar Ethan Wang

Submitted by Bill Payne, District Global Grant Scholar Chair

If you've read this far, you will find this memo from the District's Global Scholar, supported by San Marino Club, to be an interesting insight into the life of a Rotary Scholar abroad.

Hello from London!

After settling into my new residence at Goodenough College (which has been more than good enough!) and navigating a flurry of orientation events, I'm finally getting into the rhythm of life at University College London (UCL). Between navigating the London Tube—missing a stop or two—and finding my go-to study spots, I'm beginning to feel at home. Goodenough College has been an incredible place to stay and satisfied the Harry Potter atmosphere I dreamed about since I read it as a child—with its historic charms and large great halls for dinner.

One of the best parts about being here in London has been meeting people from all over the world, including my fellow Global Grant Scholars. I recently took a train to Eastbourne, where the London District Rotary Conference was held (Districts 1120 & 1130). There, I went on a hike along the Seven Sisters cliff with other Rotary Scholars. We even got together again last weekend for a home cooked Korean barbeque!

I also met with my Rotary hosts, Hugo and David, who have been tremendously welcoming. I plan to speak at one of the club meetings this coming month, where I plan to share about my experiences back home in San Marino.

Classes at UCL have been engaging and my research supervisors are incredibly welcoming and open to new ideas, making me feel supported as I study internet usage and health among older adults. Outside of academics, I've enjoyed exploring London's museums, like The National Gallery, which once held 'The Blue Boy' by Thomas Gainsborough and is now held at The Huntington and is on San Marino Rotary Club's banner!

All in all, it's been an incredible start to my journey in London, and I'm grateful for the support from Rotarians that have made this experience possible. Between my studies, city life, and new friendships, I'm looking forward to the months ahead. I look forward to sharing more from London soon!

Ethan Wang, GG Scholar, University College London (UK)



Above is a picture of me standing at my residence Goodenough College (an Uber Eats advertisement was recently filmed here). Above right is a picture (I'm fourth from the back on the left) and other London Rotary Global Scholars at the Eastbourne Rotary District Conference (Districts 1120 & 1130).

At right is a picture of me and my hiking group (all Rotary Global Scholars) after we cooked Korean barbeque at Goodenough College.

